Brownsburg News

Easter holiday guests of Mr and Mrs. John Hunter of Marlinton were their daughters, and sons-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mickle and daughter, Deborah Ann, Mr and Mrs. Emmett Jenkins and daughter, Shirley, and Mrs. Anna Haley from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; two granddaughters, Misses Mary Frances and Patricia Brown from Charleston.

Miss Virginia Brown is ill at the home of her daughter, Miss Helen Brown at Cass.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Patterson and daughter, from Huntington, spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Annie Patterson and Rev. and Mrs. Carl E. Boggs and family.

William Daugherty of Gap Mills spent Easter Sunday with his sister, Mrs. Effie Walker and family.

Marietta Underwood, employed by the World-Wide Seismological Data Center, of the Geophysics Division Coast and Geodetic Survey, Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C. is shown here making photographic enlargements of seismograph records.

"There are job opportunities for our high school graduates," says K. D. Massey, manager of the Ronceverte Employment Office. This truth is exemplified by Marietta Underwood, a graduate of Marlinton High School in May, 1962.

Marietta Underwood was among the first group of young West Virginians to arrive in Washington, D. C. last year to work for the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Like many other high school students, Marietta had no concrete plans for her future after graduation. When the vocational counselor from the Employment Office talked with her she thought she would spend the summer with relatives in Lorain, Ohio, and "sort of look around" up there.

Before these plans could be formulated, however, arrangements were made with the Coast and Geodetic Survey, through the Employment Services, for recruiters to come to the area to give the Clerk Typist and Clerk-Stenographer examinations. Marlinton High School Principal and teachers encouraged their students to take these tests. Marietta reluctantly agreed to do this, secretly thinking she "wouldn't make a passing grade."

In spite of her misgivings, Marietta passed the typing examination and subsequently accepted a job as Clerk-Typist, G-2. In this position she earned $1.69 an hour or, in broader terms, $3,760 a year. A little less than a month after beginning work, she retook the typing test and as the result of higher scores, was promoted to grade GS-3, $1.81 an hour, or $3,760 a year. In October 1962 salary increase for Federal employees brought Marietta's salary up to $1.84 an hour or $3,820 a year. This gives her a "take home" pay of approximately $114 every two weeks. As she becomes eligible, she may apply for promotions to other jobs advertised in her agency's Bureau Merit Promotion Program.

Marietta was graduated from high school in May 1962 and arrived in June. She had neither relatives or friends in that city. She says that Mrs. Stafford (one of the West Virginia Recruiters) met her train at Union Station, and it was "just like seeing my mother."

Realizing the many problems confronting newcomers who are surrounded by unfamiliar faces in a strange city, the Coast and Geodetic Survey arranged for its recruits to have temporary living quarters. The newcomer may, however, decide to remain permanently. Mrs. Stafford took Marietta to her new home — an apartment shared with two other recent high school graduates from her home state; since then Marietta has moved to a different apartment with another new friend.

Eighteen year-old Marietta lost no time in widening her circle of friends. She became a member of a church of her denomination and joined a group of its young people. This group engages in many interesting activities, including tennis matches, sightseeing tours, drives in the country, and picnics when the weather permits.

She has also met other young West Virginians from her home county. They have formed a club they proudly call the Pocahontas County Club. The group meets for social activities or just to exchange news from home. All in all, she considers her stay in the Nation's Capital "a wonderful experience."

"Although Marietta has found Washington, D. C., an interesting place to live, her heart belongs to the "boy back home." She is now engaged, but the happy day is still about two years away.

Marietta is the oldest of four children. Her sister and two brothers live in Huntersville, with their parents, Watson and Grace Underwood

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